

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 10-12, 14-15, 18, 25, and 27-48 are pending before the present amendment. Claims 6-9, 13, 16-17, 19-24, and 26 have been withdrawn. By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 1 and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In a telephone interview on September 16, 2004 between the Examiner Pham and the attorney Vangelis Economou, the Examiner indicated that Claim 2 was rejected based on the omission of the limitation "wherein, prior to the step of forming the insulating layer," from Claim 2. The Examiner indicated that reintroduction of that limitation was sufficient to make Claim 2 allowable, as well as all claims dependent thereon also allowable.

By the above amendment, Claim 1 has been cancelled, the omitted limitation has been reintroduced in Claim 2, and Claim 27 has been amended to make it dependent from Claim 2.

The Examiner and Mr. Economou have also agreed during the telephone interview that Claim 2 would be generic to all species, and since Claim 2 has been found allowable all withdrawn claims that depend on Claim 2 are also allowable.

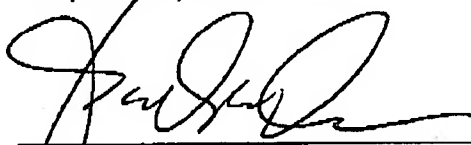
Additionally, the Examiner indicated that Claim 4 was mistakenly indicated as being objected to and that Claim 4 should be indicated as being allowed as an independent claim, and all claims dependent claims (including the withdrawn

claims) thereon are also allowed.

Thus, all pending Claims 2-48 are now considered to be in condition for allowance.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the claims, as amended, find support in the application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the pending claims, as amended, distinguish over the reference of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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